

TABLE D-23

**MINIMUM WAGE HISTORY  
CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES**

CALIFORNIA (IWC)		UNITED STATES (FLSA)	
Women & Minors a/		Men & Women	
Year	\$ Per Hour	Year	\$ Per Hour
1916	0.16		
1918	0.21		
	(10.00/week)		
1919	0.28		
	(13.50/week)		
1920	0.33		
	(16.00/week)		
		1938	0.25
		1939	0.30
1942 & 1943	0.45 - 0.50 b/		
		1945	0.40
1947	0.65		
		1950	0.75
1952	0.75		
		1956	1.00
1957	1.00		
1961	c/	1961	1.15
1963	1.25 c/	1963	1.25
1964	1.30 c/		
		1967	1.40 d/
1968	1.65 c/	1968	1.60 d/
1974	2.00 e/	1974	2.00 f/
		1975	2.10 f/
1976	2.50 g/	1976	2.30 f/
1978	2.65 i/	1978	2.65 h/
1979	2.90 i/	1979	2.90 h/
1980	3.10	1980	3.10 h/
1981	3.35	1981	3.35 h/
1988	4.25 j/		
		1990	3.80 k/
		1991	4.25 k/
1996	4.75	1996	4.75 l/
1997	5.00 / 5.15 m/	1997	5.15 l/
1998	5.75 m/		
2001	6.25		
2002	6.75		
2007	7.50	2007	5.85
2008	8.00	2008	6.55
		2009	7.25

IWC: Industrial Wage Commission

FLSA: Fair Labor Standards Act

Source:

California Department of Industrial Relations, Industrial Welfare Commission, (916) 324-4163

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/>

Department of Finance, Economic Research Unit, (916) 322-2263

Footnotes:

a/ In 1972, Labor Code was amended to include men under coverage by IWC Orders.

b/ In 1942 and 1943, the California minimum wage was raised to \$0.45 per hour in 7 of the 10 orders then in effect; in 1943, it was raised to \$0.50 per hour in the remaining three orders.

c/ In 1961, IWC promulgated a new order covering women and minors in agricultural occupations. Minimum wage was raised to \$1.00 per hour for hourly-paid workers on farms employing 10 or more women and minors. Minimum wage was raised to \$1.30 per hour in 1965 and extended to both hourly and piece-rate workers on farms employing five or more women and/or minors. In 1968, a revised order was issued raising the minimum wage to \$1.65 per hour for women and \$1.35 per hour for 16 and 17 year old minors.

d/ In 1966, the federal minimum wage was amended. Workers covered before 1966: \$1.40 (2/1/67) and \$1.60 (2/1/68). Newly-covered employees: \$1.00 (2/1/67), \$1.15 (2/1/68), \$1.30 (2/1/69), \$1.45 (2/1/70), and \$1.60 (2/1/71). Agricultural workers: \$1.00 (2/1/67), \$1.15 (2/1/68) and \$1.30 (2/1/69).

e/ Extended to men, effective 3/4/74.

f/ In 1974, the federal wage was amended.

Workers covered before 1966: \$2.00 (5/1/74), \$2.10 (1/1/75), and \$2.30 (1/1/76).

Workers covered by 1966 and 1974 amendments: \$1.90 (5/1/74), \$2.00 (1/1/75), \$2.20 (1/1/76), and \$2.30 (1/1/77).

Agricultural workers: \$1.60 (5/1/74), \$1.80 (1/1/75), \$2.00 (1/1/76), \$2.20 (1/1/77), and \$2.30 (1/1/78).

g/ In 1976, all IWC orders, effective 10/18/76, provided \$2.50 per hour, except a rate of \$2.15 allowed for learners and minors, within limitations.

h/ In 1977, federal minimum in all industries, including agriculture, amended as follows: \$2.65 (1/1/78), \$2.90 (1/1/79), \$3.10 (1/1/80), and \$3.35 (1/1/81).

i/ In 1976, California Legislature provided short procedure for IWC to raise state minimum to federal minimum whenever federal goes higher. IWC issued Order MW-78, effective 4/1/78, to raise minimum to \$2.65 in 1978 and \$2.90 in 1979. IWC retained authority to set minimum wage higher than federal under regular procedures for amendment of orders.

j/ California minimum wage raised, effective 7/1/88.

k/ Federal wage raised to \$3.80 on 4/1/90 and \$4.25 on 3/31/91.

l/ Federal wage raised to \$4.75 on 10/1/96 and \$5.15 on 9/1/97.

m/ California's Prop. 210 passed in 11/97 election, increased California's minimum wage to \$5.00, effective 3/1/97 and to \$5.75, effective 3/1/98.